

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
March 21, 2012

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Kristen Schwab, Rich Miller, Bill Lennon, Vera Ward, Julie Sherman, Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Lon Hultgren (staff), Linda Painter (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 by chair Stoddard.

The February 15, 2012 minutes were approved by Lennon/Schwab, the subcommittee February 22 and 28, 2012 minutes were approved by Schwab/Lennon, and March 2, 2012 minutes were approved by Ward/Lennon.

Painter reported on the March 5, 2012 school public hearing. The sustainability committee's comments were submitted at that time. Public comments were balanced between continuing the use of three schools and starting with two new schools. The Town Council has decided to do more research and hold off on a spring referendum. The committee decided to request dedicated time with the Town Council to discuss sustainable siting issues. Painter will request that the sustainability committee is placed on the Town Council agenda – possibly for April 9, 2012. Another special meeting will be scheduled for March 28, 2012 at 5 pm.

Painter distributed “Section A. Sustainable Sites and Responsible Land Use Development” of the HUD assessment tool. Members' comments included classifying wetlands and other natural resources, adding language about bioswales, preserving ridge lines and vistas, providing adequate connectivity for wildlife habitat and giving greater weight to impervious surfaces. Painter suggested that a new section on land use planning, livability & community character may be created as it is not currently included in the assessment tool. In preparation for the next regular meeting, Painter handed out “Section B. Materials and Resource Conservation” for members to critique.

Stoddard stated that she presented the committee's progress report to Town Council on March 12, 2012.

Walton reminded members about the March 27, 2012 Climate Impact Forum at the Bishop Center. She will e-mail flyers to members as a reminder.

Kaufman reported that the Agriculture Committee is proposing three farm-related tax incentives and a Right to Farm ordinance. This will be added to next month's agenda. The Open Space Committee has an open space action plan which will be presented to Town Council on April 9, 2012. The plan mirrors what has already adopted in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton